

REMARKS

I. Status of the Application

Claims 1-5, 6-50 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 5, 28, 42, and 47 are amended.

Claim 6 is cancelled without prejudice. Claims 49 and 50 are added. Claims 18-27 have been allowed.

II. The Drawings

The drawings have been objected to as allegedly failing to comply with 37 CFR § 1.84(p)(5), because they allegedly do not contain reference numbers 101, 106a, 114, 116, 118a, 118b, 124, 320, and 322.

Reference numerals 114 and 124 are shown in original Fig. 1 and in Fig. 2, respectively. The paragraph starting on page 6, line 14 is amended to delete reference to Fig. 1, since item 124 is only shown in Fig. 2.

In Fig. 1, numeral 101 is inserted in Fig. 1, numeral 118 is changed to 118a or 118b, and a bulb 320 and a fan 322 are added, as described on page 8, lines 5-9. In Fig. 2, numeral 116b is changed to 116a and numeral 118 is changed to 118a. In Fig. 3, numerals 106a and 118a are inserted. The paragraphs starting on page 5, line 4 and on page 5, line 22 are amended to delete references to numeral 116. The Examiner is thanked for pointing out these omissions.

In addition, numeral 130, which appears in Fig. 2, is added to Fig. 3.

Replacement drawings for the original drawings are enclosed, along with a marked up set of drawings showing the changed and added numerals, as well as the bulb 320 and the fan 322, highlighted in yellow. No new matter has been added.

III. The Specification

The Abstract has been objected to for allegedly containing more than 150 words. The Abstract has been amended to reduce the word count.

The specification has been objected to for allegedly failing to provide support for “the light guide” in claim 5. Claim 5 has been amended to replace “light” guide by “wave” guide, which is discussed on page 8, lines 14-19.

The specification has also been amended, as discussed in Section II, above, to conform to the amended drawings.

No new matter has been added.

IV. Claim Objections

Claim 3 has been objected to for referring to “the illuminators.” Claim 3 has been amended to replace “illuminator” by “light projector,” which is supported in claim 1.

V. Claim Rejections

A. 35 USC § 102

Claims 28-32, 42, and 43 have been rejected for allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,627,470 (“Kuth”).

Claim 28 has been amended to require that the first canopy is “insulative.” On page 5, line 23 - page 6, line 2 of the specification, the canopies 118a, 118b are said to be of PVC, for example, which is an insulative material. (See page 5, lines 18-20.) In Kuth, in contrast, the pole shoes 10 identified by the Examiner as “canopies” are said to be “magnetically coupled to the winding of upper and lower electromagnets 12. The pole shoes 10 homogenize the vertical magnetic field generated by the electromagnets in the examination space 6.” (Col. 2,

lines 31-36). For the pole shoes 10 to operate as described, they must be ferromagnetic material or conducting coils --they cannot be “insulative,” as claimed.

Independent claim 28 and claims 29-32, which are dependent claim 28 cannot, therefore, be anticipated, by Kuth. There is also no teaching or suggestion in Kuth or the other cited references to connect a light projector to an insulative canopy. Claim 28 and the claims dependent upon it would not, therefore, have been obvious in light of Kuth and the other cited references, either.

Claim 42 has been amended to require that the light projector be “flexible.” Kuth does not show a “flexible” light projector, as claimed. Claim 42 and claim 43, which is dependent on claim 42, are not, therefore, anticipated by Kuth or the other cited references. They would not have been rendered obvious, either, as is discussed further, below.

Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

B. Rejection under 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-5, 9-12, 15-17, and 44 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kuth in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2004/0249261 (“Torchia”). Claims 6-8, 39-41, and 47-48 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) in light of Kuth as applied to claim 1 and “Fiberstars Lighting for the 21st Century” (“Fiberstars”).

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the at least one light projector is “flexible,” as recited in cancelled claim 6, for example. Independent claims 28 and 42 have been similarly amended. In the light source arrangement 18 of Kuth, “deflection optics 32 can be firmly glued to the surface of the pole shoe 10; however, it can also be arranged movable in a guide” (Col. 3, lines 20-24). The light source in Kuth is not flexible, as claimed.

While describing a flexible light projector, there is no teaching or suggestion in the Fiberstars that such a projector would be useful in an MRI system.

In addition, Kuth states that it is “an object of the invention to provide a magnetic resonance imaging apparatus with an illumination means that makes adequately high luminance for surgical procedures available, but which only insignificantly reduces the structural height of the examination space.” (Emphasis added). There is no teaching or suggestion in the cited references of how to incorporate the Fiberstars light projector in the Kuth system without reducing “the structural height of the examination space.” The Fiberstars light projectors are long, thin devices with a first end mounted to a support and a second end from which light exits the device. Connecting a Fiberstars light projector along the central axis of the MRI magnet, as in Kuth, could interfere with the movement of a surgeon and could reduce the structural height of the imaging volume. It is not at all clear that the combination proposed by the Examiner would be appropriate for the intended use of Kuth. It would not, therefore, have been obvious to combine Kuth and the Fiberstars reference.

Independent claims 1, 28, and 42, and the claims dependent upon them, would not, therefore, have been obvious in light of Kuth, Torchia, the Fiberstars reference, or the other cited references.

Withdrawal of the rejections and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

VI. The New Claims

New claim 49, which is also dependent on claim 28, recites that the light sources comprises a bulb to emit visible light and a fan proximate the bulb to cool the bulb. This is described on page 8, lines 5-9, for example. The motor driving the fan could interfere with the MRI system, which is why it is preferably placed outside the shielded room. Providing such a

source of visible light outside of a shielded room is not taught or suggested by the cited references.

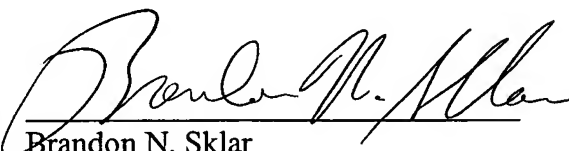
New claim 50, which is also dependent on claim 28, recites that at least one light projector is connected proximate a periphery of the canopy, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3, for example. In this position, the projector is less likely to interfere with medical personnel working on a patient in the imaging volume and does not reduce the height of the imaging volume. Positioning a light projector as claimed is not taught or suggested by the cited references.

Entry and consideration of the new claims are respectfully requested.

VII. Conclusion

The allowance of the application in light of these Amendments and Remarks is respectfully requested.

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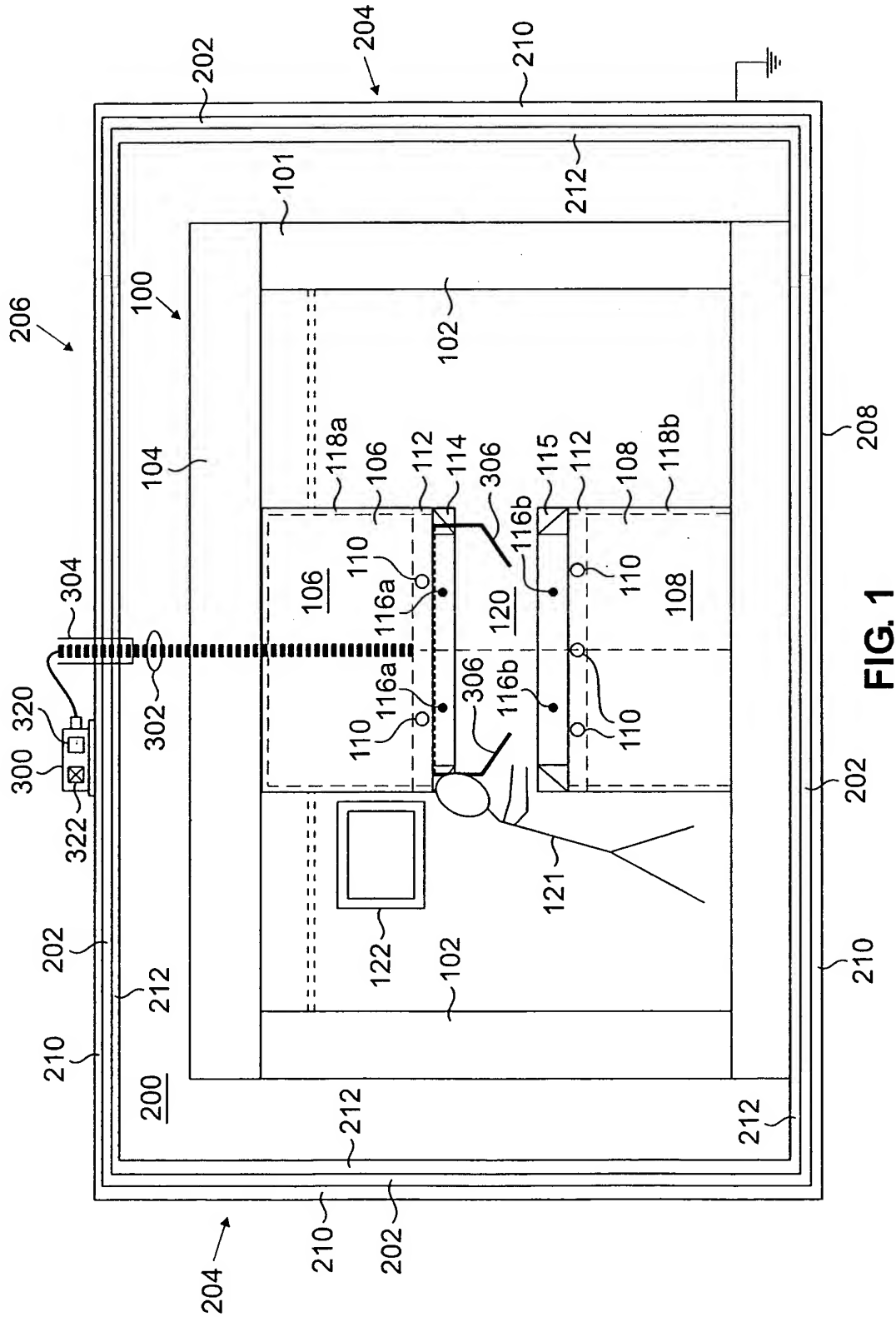


FIG. 1



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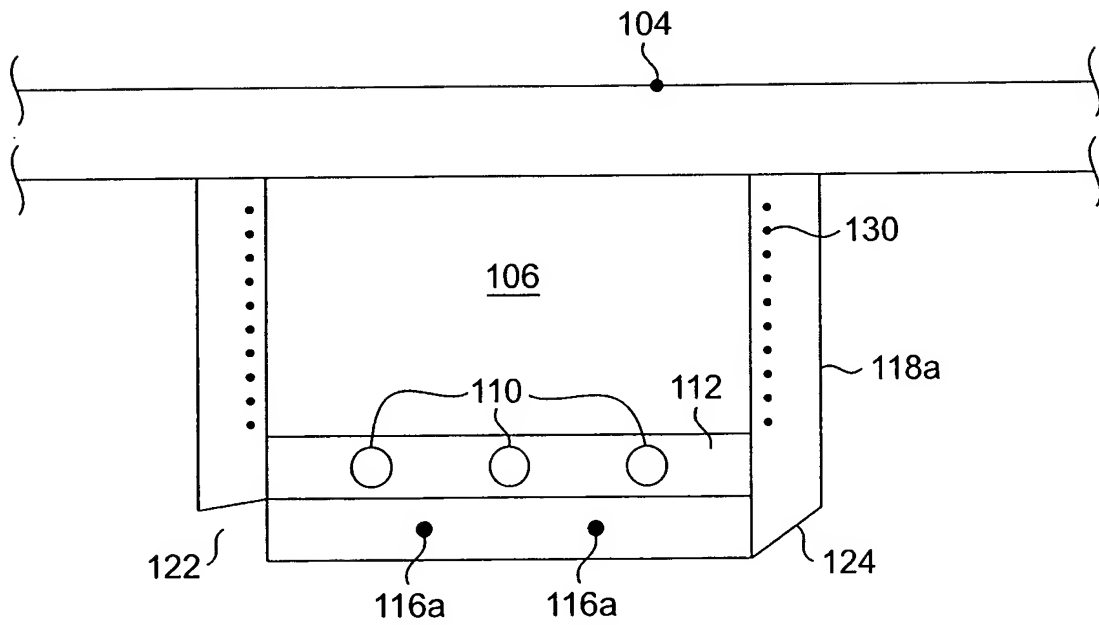


FIG. 2



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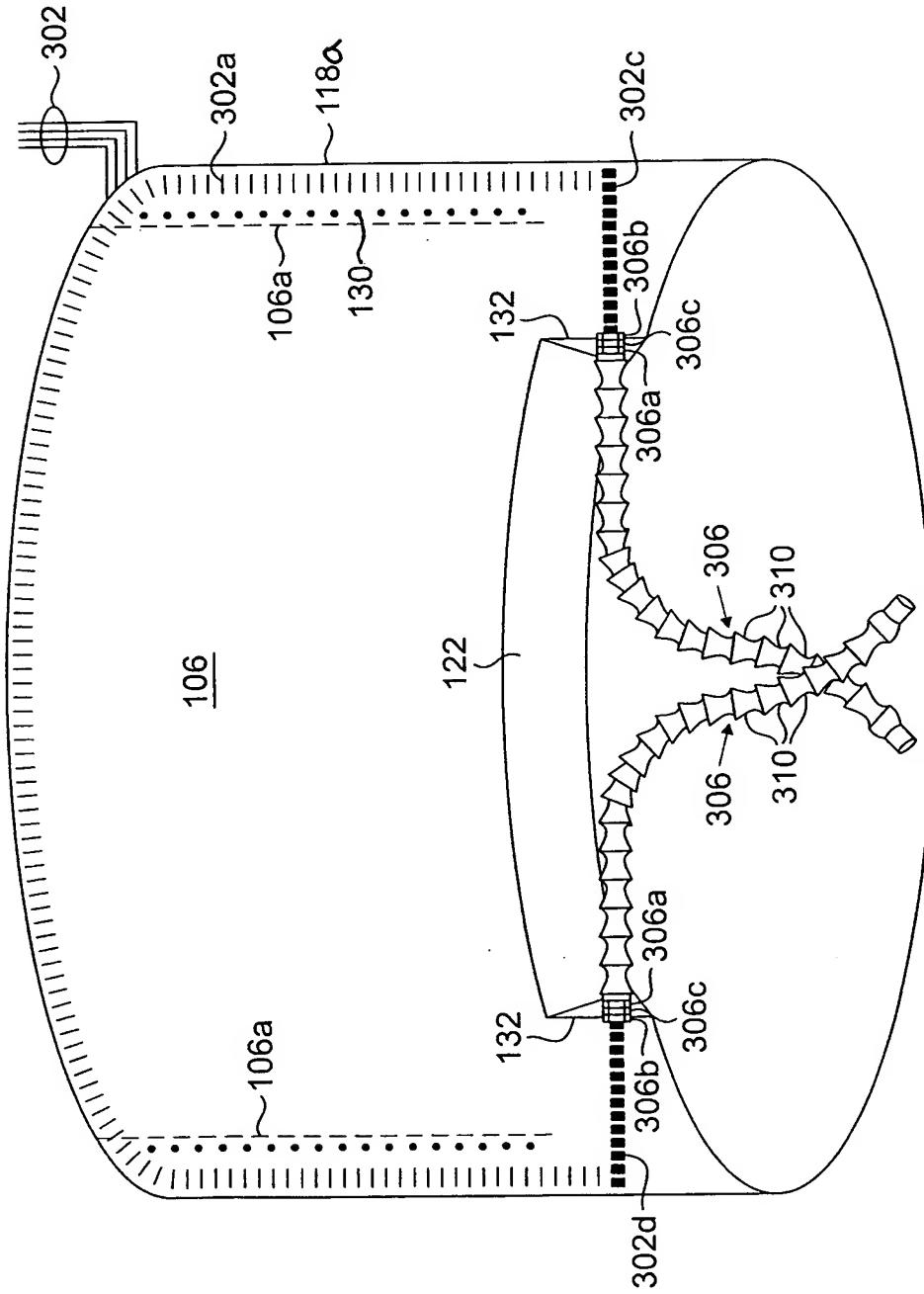


FIG. 3